



January 23, 2008

Rich Karney  
ENERGY STAR Program Manager  
US Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue SW EE2J  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Rich:

CEE thanks the Department of Energy (DOE) for the opportunity to comment on the proposed ENERGY STAR clothes washer specification. These comments were developed by CEE's Residential Appliance Committee (Committee). We are pleased that DOE has proposed adopting CEE's high efficiency levels. However, the Committee is very concerned that the proposed effective dates are too far in the future; and that this delay in implementation will undermine ENERGY STAR's relevance in the market. The organizations listed at the end of this letter have chosen to indicate their strong individual support for these comments.

### **Basis for Proposal**

CEE is concerned with the lack of data DOE has to support its reasoning for the current proposal.

#### Percent of Available Models

It is unclear why DOE has proposed moving to CEE's Tier 1 instead of CEE's Tier 2 in 2009. We understand that as a general guideline, ENERGY STAR aims to differentiate the 25% of available models ranked by efficiency. As demonstrated in Table 1 of DOE's analysis document, 51% of available models already meet CEE's Tier 1. The data provide a stronger case for moving to CEE's Tier 2, which represents 33% percent of available models. Based on ENERGY STAR's products list for clothes washers, 60% of the available ENERGY STAR models, covering 20 different brands, meet CEE's Tier 2 requirements. If DOE waits until 2011 to adopt CEE's Tier 2, it is likely the percent of available models will have increased significantly, moving further away from the 25% target.

#### Qualification of Top-load Models

DOE states that the inclusion of top-load models is an important consideration and moving to CEE's Tier 2 would disqualify every ENERGY STAR top-load model. However, when the original ENERGY STAR specification for residential clothes washers was set in 1997, no top-loading models qualified. Despite the lack of top loaders, DOE set the level at an appropriate mark given the market and technical conditions, and the program has been successful as a result.

CEE asks DOE to provide its rationale for emphasizing top-load models. In 2000, DOE's Technical Support Document from Appendix J, Clothes Washer Consumer Analysis indicated that door location ranked far down the list of important attributes. CEE also asks DOE to revisit the data, as our review as of January 14<sup>th</sup> finds that five top-load models that meet CEE's Tier 2.

Number of Criteria Changes

If DOE is concerned with the number of criteria changes over the last six years, CEE recommends that DOE make one change to CEE’s Tier 2 instead of a two-step phased criteria revision.

**Efficiency Program Impacts**

CEE collected data from 13 out of 23 member programs, providing representation from each region of the country, which were submitted to DOE in October of 2007. The data indicate that approximately 75% of clothes washers that were rebated by CEE member programs had an MEF equal to or greater than 2.0. Furthermore, one-third of CEE member programs who submitted data don’t provide incentives for models with a MEF below 2.0.

As stated in the Principles for Determining the Appropriate Energy Performance Levels for an ENERGY STAR Product Specification, “ENERGY STAR performance specifications must be maintained so as to offer true product differentiation.” As this is no longer the case for clothes washers, programs are turning to CEE’s Tiers to differentiate products. CEE would like to see ENERGY STAR regain its programmatic value and strongly urges DOE to consider tightening the ENERGY STAR energy and water efficiency levels to be consistent with CEE’s Tier 2 by July 1, 2009.

CEE member programs, as well as many others, need the energy savings associated with CEE’s Tier 2 to justify continued support of the clothes washers, and in some cases, all ENERGY STAR appliances. The difference in energy and water savings between CEE’s Tier 1 and Tier 2 is significant. As demonstrated by Table 3 in the analysis document, the current proposal will result in 121 million kWh in lost energy savings and 3.3 billion gallons in lost water savings per year. In addition to energy and water saving numbers, CEE requests incremental cost data by Tier level to help inform program design.

In closing, our recommendation is for ENERGY STAR to adopt the proposed 2011 specification effective in 2009. Thank you again for the opportunity to comment. The Committee looks forward to the release of the final criteria in the next few months. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please direct them to Eileen Eaton, CEE Program Associate at (617) 589-3949 ext. 203 or [EEaton@CEE1.org](mailto:EEaton@CEE1.org).

Sincerely,



Marc Hoffman  
CEE Executive Director



**Supporting Organizations:**

BC Hydro  
Cape Light Compact  
Efficiency Vermont  
Energy Trust of Oregon  
Long Island Power Authority  
MidAmerican  
National Grid  
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority  
Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance  
NSTAR  
Ontario Power Authority  
Pacific Gas & Electric  
PacifiCorp  
Sacramento Municipal Utility District  
Southwest Energy Efficiency Project  
Wisconsin Focus on Energy